

Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

Early Care and Education Work Group--

January 11, 2006 - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Members Present: Diana Courson, Dana Gonzales, David Griffin, Martha Hiett, Sue Martin, Jamie Morrison, Martha Reeder, Sandra Reifeiss, Pamela Scarber, Ratha Tracy, Cara Walloch, and Paula C. Watson.
Guests: Joe Douglas—Kareer Kids, Jennie Kyle—AR Division of Health, and Kimberly Norris—Kids First.
Regrets: Jennie Adair, Jana Gifford, Joanna Grymes, and Kathy Stegall.
Sandra Reifeiss called the meeting to order. The group made self-introductions.
Agenda Item #1: QRS Report
Discussion: Martha Reeder reported on the QRS sub-group. They met this morning and began work on the Parent/Family/Community Partnerships Measure, the final measure under the QRS plan. The handout shows the draft of everything required on each individual level. Martha encouraged the members of this work group to access the QRS web site and become familiar with its contents. She reminded the group that all QRS data is posted on this website as quickly as possible following each meeting: www.arkansas.gov/childcare/qrs.htm . She also urged the group to make written comments and pass the information about the site to other concerned groups, programs, individuals, etc. When comments are written down, it is possible to share with the entire sub-group.
Agenda Item #2: Public Relations Campaign
Discussion: Geania Dickey reported on the public relations group. The group had its first meeting in December 2005. The second meeting was held today prior to this meeting. The group is expanding to include some new partners. The PR group is looking at the United Way, Success by Six, "Born Learning" campaign materials. Geania and Martha Reeder participated in a conference call with United Way to learn more about the "Born Learning" program. United Way offered to contract with Arkansas for \$25,000 a year to organize, manage, and expand their campaign to meet the needs of Arkansas. They have Born Learning in addition to other programs that have already been developed. Any of the materials can be downloaded and personalized with an Arkansas brand (theme). The \$25,000 does not provide for any specific resources.

Agenda Item #2, Continued: Public Relations Campaign
<p>Discussion: United Way would do what a professional public relations/advertising company would do. They would help us find the media market. The \$25,000 essentially would be for technical assistance in incorporating the campaign specifically to Arkansas. Since the Born Learning materials are free to use, if we can pool some monies, we could hire someone locally to help us organize. There are PR people within our organizations that we could bring in to help with this project. We could then use the \$25,000 to pay for printing.</p> <p>The PR group is looking at a unified message. A generic campaign is needed at this time that later would be narrowed down as the process moves along. The group wants to look at themes already out there and see if we can build on them. They want to know what is already available that can be utilized.</p> <p>The PR group would like anyone that has any public relations materials to send the materials or information about the materials to Geania Dickey and/or Martha Reeder. Any locally developed materials would be helpful.</p>

Agenda Item #3: Jacksonville Health Coalition - Jennie Kyle
<p>Discussion: Jennie Kyle, from the Division of Health, presented information on the Jacksonville Health Coalition. There are four Hometown Health Improvement Coalitions in Pulaski County. Hometown Health Improvement started in 1996. A copy of the PowerPoint notes is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Some of the comments made by Jennie included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Arkansas is very diverse.? The foundation is that the initiative is community focused.? HHI functions a little more like the private sector than the Health agency.? Decisions are based on community data.? The coalitions are very flexible. They do not have as many laws overseeing their work.? Anyone who is interested in the health and well being of the community should be involved in the program.? A lot of diversity is needed in a coalition: jobs, race, culture, etc.? Working with the coalition, there is a lot of flexibility outside of the agency that you do not find in a state agency.? Partnering with other agencies makes you look at the world differently.? As a group, you can communicate with more people.? Outside people can help with public relations and help get the message out.? It is really important when a new product is developed to know who is going to be impacted.? Every decision that is made has an impact on others—ripple effect.? Many children are impacted in the state; some difficult decisions are made that “ripple” out.? The hope is to send positive changes one child at a time.? The things that we don't know are the things that will come back to haunt us.

Agenda Item #3, Continued: Jacksonville Health Coalition - Jennie Kyle
<p>Discussion: Jennie's comments continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Children are very vulnerable during a disaster. During Katrina, made sure that the children were hooked up to health services.? In Jacksonville, the HHI Coalition is more of a partnering organization.? There is more partnering now with the military base.? It is important to have people who "know" other people in the coalition.? Decisions are better made when partnering together; cannot have a holistic program without all the players.? There are 70 hometown health agencies. Some are just starting and others are well established and outstanding.? Build your relationships <u>before</u> a disaster. Make distribution lists <u>before</u> a disaster—churches, government agencies, etc. <p>Sandra Reifeiss thanked Jennie for her presentation on behalf of the group.</p>

Agenda Items #4: Professional Development/AECPDS - Donna Alliston
<p>Discussion: The Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development System is in the process of being evaluated by KeyStone Research Cooperation.</p> <p>Surveys have been sent to all contractors who offer Professional Development Opportunities and KeyStone is waiting on the two larger programs to send in surveys. KeyStone will use these surveys in the evaluation along with information from Licensing and Registry databases.</p> <p>Training for the Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale is tentatively scheduled for July 10, 2006. The Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale will be utilized for implementation of long-term, self-evaluation of the quality of teacher/child interaction in the programs and the quality of the AECPDS (pending on contract agreements). There are a limited number of persons involved in this training; they are being trained to participate in evaluations.</p> <p>The Program Administrator Scale (PAS) Training is tentatively scheduled for September 12-14, 2006, pending on contract agreements.</p> <p>KeyStone is very thorough in their evaluation and is very knowledgeable about Professional Development Systems.</p> <p>The slightly revised SPECTRUM was distributed. The new SPECTRUM lists some of the newer programs under the Endorsement section. The Practitioner Registry Application is to be reprinted.</p>

Agenda Item #5: Curriculum Review Committee – Jamie Morrison
<p>Discussion: Jamie Morrison presented the Curriculum Review Committee information and distributed four handouts—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Draft Guideline of Committee Procedures? Review Checklist? Early Childhood Approved List? Membership List <p>This is all center-based information for 3-5 year olds. The process involves the publishing company contacting the Curriculum Review Committee and arranging to do a 1-1/2 hour presentation to the Committee. Following the presentation, the committee discusses the materials and each member present completes the checklist. The committee then makes recommendations to the Division Director for approval of the curriculum to the comprehensive or supplemental list, or denial of the curriculum.</p> <p>The home-based curriculum group has met a few times. There is a process being developed for home-based. They have not started the review process yet. There are seven or eight curricula that probably will be considered. Everyone has to meet the criteria.</p> <p>The Curriculum Review Committee will make sure the process is fair. There will be a level playing field for everyone. They are making sure that they are not asking more of one group than the other group.</p> <p>The Committee is looking into expanding to include from birth to 3 and after school curricula. The checklist will need to be revised for infant-toddler. Some states do not have an approved curriculum list for any age. Several states have requested copies of the Arkansas guidelines.</p> <p>Jamie announced that the next meeting date of the committee is January 23. There will be a Curriculum Fair for all programs on March 2 and 3 at the Metro-Plex. Invitations will be sent out to every licensed provider in the State. Publishers on the approved list will lead a breakout session. Each publisher will be charged \$100 for display space. This covers both days.</p> <p>ABC Programs are required to choose from the list. For everyone else, it is a recommendation.</p> <p>NOTE: If you wish copies of the Curriculum Review Committee handouts, please contact Paula C. Watson at 501-683-0979 or e-mail at Paula.C.Watson@arkansas.gov.</p>
Agenda Item #6: Announcements and Adjournment
<p>Discussion: The Work Group was reminded that the next meeting date is February 8, following the QRS Sub-group meeting. Notification of the place will be sent later.</p> <p>NOTE: February 8 Meeting cancelled; next meeting will be March 8, 2006.</p>

Agenda Item #6, Continued: Announcements and Adjournment

Discussion: Martha Reeder announced that a Strengthening Families Report is due at the end of January. The SFI Offices will review the Arkansas report and two people will be sent back to the State for site visits and other technical assistance. Jean McIntosh will be one member of the SFI team. The Leadership Team will also be re-convened. It is anticipated that it will be the week of March 13. Anyone not on the Leadership Team, who is interested in becoming involved in the meeting with Jean McIntosh, should contact Martha. The Leadership meeting is expected to be on March 16. Site visits will be scheduled on March 13 and 14.

Save the Dates - Mark your Calendar—

- ? Council for Exceptional Children Conference - October 18-21, 2006 - State Convention Center
- ? Arkansas Early Childhood Association - October 19-21, 2006 - Hot Springs, AR

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RESULTING TASKS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- ? Review QRS web site, www.arkansas.gov/childcare/qrs.htm, and make desired written comments for sharing with the QRS Sub-group.
- ? Distribute the information about the site to other concerned groups, programs, individuals, etc.
- ? Send any sample public relations/marketing materials to Geania Dickey or Martha Reeder.
- ? Notify Martha Reeder if you would like to be involved in the SFI Leadership Team meeting with Jean McIntosh.